

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment, comprising[[.]]:

a laser light source,

a means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path,

~~a wavelength selection means~~ an etalon having two or more transmission bands, and

[[a]] first and [[a]] second light detectors, wherein:

said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon is located in the parallel light path;

the parallel plane wave is divided into at least two pieces of light including light that is transmitted through said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon and light passing through a medium having optical characteristics different from those of the light that is transmitted through said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon;

the first light detecting means detects one divided piece of light and the second light detecting means detects the other divided piece of light;

signals based on photocurrents from the first and ~~the~~ second light detectors are compared to each other to obtain a signal for setting an emitting wavelength of the laser light

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

source to a desired value; and

said signal is used for controlling a wavelength of the laser light source.

2. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said wavelength selection means~~ etalon is a Fabry Perot type etalon in which:

a refractive index of its medium is within a range of 1.0 to 4.0;

surface reflectivities of both reflection planes of the medium are within a range of 20 to 70%; and

a thickness of the medium is set so that a plurality of light transmission portions are generated at given wavelength intervals, and that any one of the plurality of light transmission portions is equivalent to an emitting wavelength desired by the laser light source.

3. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said wavelength selection means~~ etalon is a Fabry Perot type etalon constructed of two or more kinds of materials, which ~~differ~~ differ from each other in at least one of

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

temperature characteristics and a refractive index.

4. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to claim 1, wherein:

said etalon is a Fabry-Perot type etalon, a thickness of ~~said Fabry Perot type etalon~~, which depends on a channel grid interval of wavelength division multiplexing optical-fiber communication[[,]] and is set to a value that is shifted from a free spectral range of the Fabry Perot type etalon, and thereby temperature characteristics of transmission characteristics of the Fabry Perot type etalon ~~is~~ are compensated.

5. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 1, wherein:

said laser light source is located at a position that is shifted from an optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path; or a normal line of an incident end face for said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon or the a laser-light dividing means is located so that the normal line crosses the optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

parallel light path.

6. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment, comprising[[,]]:

- a laser light source,
- a means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path,
- an optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave,
- ~~a wavelength selection means~~ an etalon, and
- [[a]] first and [[a]] second light detectors, wherein:
said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon is located in the parallel light path;
- said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon has a plurality of light transmission portions having desired wavelengths existing at given wavelength intervals;
- any one of the plurality of light transmission portions corresponds to an emitting wavelength desired ~~by~~ for the laser light source;
- said optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave divides the parallel plane wave into at least two pieces of light including light that is transmitted through said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon and light passing through a medium having optical characteristics different from those of

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

the light that is transmitted through said ~~wavelength~~
~~selection means~~ etalon;

the first light detecting means detects one divided piece
of light and the second light detecting means detects the
other divided piece of light;

signals from the first and the second light detectors are
compared to each other to obtain a signal for setting an
emitting wavelength of the laser light source to a desired
value; and

said signal is used for controlling a wavelength of the
laser light source so that the wavelength is kept to be a
given wavelength.

7. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication
equipment according to claim 6, wherein:

said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon is a Fabry Perot
type etalon in which:

a refractive index of its medium is within a range
of 1.0 to 4.0;

surface reflectivities of both reflection planes of the
medium are within a range of 20 to 70%; and

a thickness of the medium is set so that a plurality of
light transmission portions are generated at given wavelength

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

intervals, and so that any one of the plurality of light transmission portions is equivalent to an emitting wavelength desired ~~by~~ for the laser light source.

8. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 6, wherein:

said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon is a Fabry Perot type etalon constructed of two or more kinds of materials, which ~~differ~~ differ from each other in at least one of temperature characteristics and a refractive index.

9. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to claim 6, wherein:

said etalon is a Fabry-Perot type etalon, a thickness of ~~said Fabry Perot type etalon~~, which depends on a channel grid interval of wavelength division multiplexing optical-fiber communication[[,]] and is set to a value that is shifted from a free spectral range of the Fabry Perot type etalon, and thereby temperature characteristics of transmission characteristics of the Fabry Perot type etalon ~~is~~ are compensated.

10. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

equipment according to Claim 6, wherein:

said optical-fiber communication equipment comprises an information storing portion, and said laser light source comprises a temperature detecting means;

the information storing portion stores temperature characteristics of a light transmission portion of the ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon; and

according to a signal from the temperature detecting means and said stored temperature characteristics of the light transmission portion of the ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon, a shift of an emitting wavelength of the laser light source from a channel-grid wavelength of said wavelength division multiplexing optical-fiber communication is compensated.

11. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 6, wherein:

said laser light source is located at a position that is shifted from an optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path; or a normal line of an incident end face for said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon or the ~~laser light dividing means~~ optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave is located so that the normal line crosses the optical

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path.

12. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment, comprising[[,]]:

- a laser light source,
- a means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path,
- an optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave,
- ~~a wavelength selection means~~ an etalon, and
- [[a]] first and [[a]] second light detectors, wherein:
 - said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon is located in the parallel light path;
 - said laser light source is ~~a laser light source that is~~ capable of lasing at a plurality of lasing wavelengths;
 - said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon has a plurality of light transmission portions having desired wavelengths existing at given wavelength intervals;
 - the wavelength interval of the light transmission portions is equivalent to a channel grid interval of wavelength division multiplexing optical-fiber communication;
 - any one of said plurality of lasing wavelengths of the laser light source is equivalent to an emitting wavelength

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

corresponding to a desired wavelength that is shifted to a wavelength portion having ~~the~~ a highest transmittance among said plurality of light transmission portions provided by the ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon;

said optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave divides the parallel plane wave into at least two pieces of light including light that is transmitted through said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon and light passing through a medium having optical characteristics different from those of the light that is transmitted through said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon;

signals based on photocurrents from the first and the second light detector, which receive each of said divided pieces of light, are compared to each other to obtain a signal for setting an emitting wavelength of the laser light source to a desired value; and

said signal is used for controlling each of said plurality of lasing wavelengths provided by the laser light source so that each lasing wavelength is kept to be a given wavelength.

13. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to claim 12, wherein:

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon is a Fabry Perot type etalon in which:

a refractive index of its medium is within a range of 1.0 to 4.0;

surface reflectivities of both reflection planes of the medium are within a range of 20 to 70%; and

a thickness of the medium is set so that a plurality of light transmission portions are generated at given wavelength intervals, and so that any one of the plurality of light transmission portions is equivalent to an emitting wavelength desired ~~by~~ for the laser light source.

14. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 12, wherein:

said ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon is a Fabry Perot type etalon constructed of two or more kinds of materials, which ~~differs~~ differ from each other in at least one of temperature characteristics and a refractive index.

15. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 12, wherein:

said etalon is a Fabry-Perot type etalon, a thickness of ~~said Fabry-Perot type etalon,~~ which depends on a channel grid

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

interval of wavelength division multiplexing optical-fiber communication[[,]] and is set to a value that is shifted from a free spectral range of the Fabry Perot type etalon, and thereby temperature characteristics of transmission characteristics of the Fabry Perot type etalon ~~is~~ are compensated.

16. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 12, wherein:

said optical-fiber communication equipment comprises an information storing portion, and said laser light source comprises a temperature detecting means;

the information storing portion stores temperature characteristics of a light transmission portion of the ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon; and

according to a signal from the temperature detecting means and said stored temperature characteristics of light transmission portion of the ~~wavelength selection means~~ etalon, a shift of an emitting wavelength of the laser light source from a channel-grid wavelength of said wavelength division multiplexing optical-fiber communication is compensated.

17. (Currently Amended) Optical-fiber communication

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

equipment according to Claim 12, wherein:

said laser light source is located at a position that is shifted from an optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path; or a normal line of an incident end face for said ~~wavelength-selection-means~~ etalon or the ~~laser light dividing-means~~ optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave is located so that the normal line crosses the optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path.

18. (New) Optical-fiber communication equipment, comprising:

a laser light source,

a means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path,

an etalon having two or more transmission bands, and

first and second light detectors, wherein:

said etalon is located in the parallel light path;

the parallel plane wave is divided into at least two pieces of light including light that is transmitted through said etalon and light passing through a medium having optical characteristics different from those of the light that is

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

transmitted through said etalon;

the first light detecting means detects one divided piece of light and the second light detecting means detects the other divided piece of light;

signals based on photocurrents from the first and second light detectors are compared to each other to obtain a signal representing the free spectral range of the etalon;

said signal representing the free spectral range of the etalon is compared to a wavelength standard of plural standard wavelengths; and

said signal representing the free spectral range is used for controlling a wavelength of the laser light source to match one of the plural standard wavelengths of the wavelength standard.

19. (New) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 18, wherein:

said optical-fiber communication equipment comprises an information storing portion, and said laser light source comprises a temperature detecting means;

the information storing portion stores temperature characteristics of a light transmission portion of the etalon; and

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

according to a signal from the temperature detecting means and said stored temperature characteristics of the light transmission portion of the etalon, a shift of an emitting wavelength of the laser light source from the wavelength matched to said one of the plural standard wavelengths is compensated.

20. (New) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 18, wherein:

said laser light source is located at a position that is shifted from an optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path; or a normal line of an incident end face for said etalon or a laser-light dividing means is located so that the normal line crosses the optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path.

21. (New) Optical-fiber communication equipment, comprising:

a laser light source,

a means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path,

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

an optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave, a
an etalon, and

first and second light detectors, wherein:

said etalon is located in the parallel light path;

said etalon has a plurality of light transmission
portions having desired wavelengths existing at given
wavelength intervals;

any one of the plurality of light transmission portions
corresponds to an emitting wavelength desired for the laser
light source;

said optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave
divides the parallel plane wave into at least two pieces of
light including light that is transmitted through said etalon
and light passing through a medium having optical
characteristics different from those of the light that is
transmitted through said etalon;

the first light detecting means detects one divided piece
of light and the second light detecting means detects the
other divided piece of light;

signals from the first and second light detectors are
compared to each other to obtain a signal representing the
free spectral range of the etalon;

said signal representing the free spectral range of the

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

etalon is compared to a wavelength standard of plural standard wavelengths; and

said signal representing the free spectral range is used for controlling a wavelength of the laser light source to match one of the plural standard wavelengths of the wavelength standard so that the wavelength is kept to be the matched wavelength.

22. (New) Optical-fiber communication equipment according to Claim 21, wherein:

said optical-fiber communication equipment comprises an information storing portion, and said laser light source comprises a temperature detecting means;

the information storing portion stores temperature characteristics of a light transmission portion of the etalon; and

according to a signal from the temperature detecting means and said stored temperature characteristics of the light transmission portion of the etalon, a shift of an emitting wavelength of the laser light source from the wavelength matched to said one of the plural standard wavelengths is compensated.

U.S. Serial No. 09/814,693

NIT-272

23. (New) Optical-fiber communication equipment
according to Claim 21, wherein:

said laser light source is located at a position that is shifted from an optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path; or a normal line of an incident end face for said etalon or the optical system for dividing the parallel plane wave is located so that the normal line crosses the optical axis of the means for changing light of the laser light source to a parallel plane wave to form a parallel light path.